

PAST TIMES

50 YEARS AGO – UNDERGROUND No.53 – May 1966

There were no Newsflashes in the May 1966 issue of Underground, so instead, and again by request, two photographs of the 1960s transition stage of rolling stock. Such photos are not, sadly, in abundance.



The transition stage in Ruislip Depot with new 1959 Tube Stock in the left distance and Pre-1938 Tube Stock on the right, the example being a 1927 MCCW DM.

A screen shot from the TV programme 'Railway Roundabout' of the early 1960s showing an F Stock on the left and a new A60 train (with black roof) on the right.

25 YEARS AGO – UNDERGROUND NEWS No.353 – May 1991

NF 60/91 – Having been closed for rebuilding work, Mansion House station reopened on Monday 11 February 1991. In addition to a fully refurbished ticket hall, with eight UTS gates (two for entry, two for exit and three reversible), Help Points have been installed. The high-level tiled District and Circle Line colour theme continues into the booking hall. The western end of the three platforms have also been retiled – an area left incomplete at the time of closure. Now that Mansion House has reopened, Cannon Street station reverts to its previous early closure of 19.30 Mondays to Fridays and remains closed at weekends.

NF 62/91 – On Sunday 21.2.91, BR Network SouthEast's Chiltern Line services were operated in two sections. DMUs from Paddington terminated in the high level bay platform at Greenford, while those from the High Wycombe direction terminated at West Ruislip. The 'gap' in the Chiltern Line service was bridged by the Central Line, with connections being scheduled at Greenford and West Ruislip with certain LUL trains.

NF 63/91 – Just before 23.00 on Thursday night 21 March 1991, a lorry travelling east along the A40 near Hillingdon got out of control and crashed into the bridge over the Metropolitan Line just west of Hillingdon station. Debris from the damaged bridge fell onto the track below and an approaching train was safely brought to a halt, although there wasn't time for it to stop short of the fallen debris. Passengers were detrained forward to Hillingdon station. Services were curtailed between Ruislip and Uxbridge, and were not resumed until about 07.30 the following morning.

NF 64/91 – It is reported that the company Babcock Thorne, based at Rosyth Dockyard in Scotland, are to do the refurbishing work on the 1967 and 1972 Tube Stocks. It is also suggested that those currently unrefurbished with LUL (i.e. most of the fleet) may go to Scotland by rail rather than by road, the route to which may be via the Forth Bridge! Will this be the first time that a tube train has been across the Forth Bridge??

10 YEARS AGO – UNDERGROUND NEWS No.533 – May 2006

NF 41/06 – Tube Lines have been experimenting with the use of snow ploughs on their Schöma diesel locomotives. During February 2006, four new snow ploughs were observed resting on a wagon in Ruislip Depot – awaiting their first substantial snowfall!

NF 42/06 – Noted during February 2006 was that some of the "count-up" white-on-(light) blue (1-8) markers at the west end of the Central Line had been replaced by white-on-(dark) blue markers. The

replacements seem to be stuck over the originals as the lighter blue can still be seen at the edges. Moreover, the typeface on the replacements are not in LU New Johnston standard.

NF 49/06 – The sole surviving 1940 stock car of Southern Railway Waterloo & City stock is double-ended motor coach 61, which was withdrawn on 28 May 1993. It was lifted and left Waterloo on 12 June 1993, being stored for some days at a disused airfield in Pershore, before arriving at the National Railway Museum at York on 23 June 1993. From 24 June 1994 it was put on public display in York Museum but has latterly been covered by a tarpaulin. It has now been acquired by London's Transport Museum and arrived back in London on 6 April 2006.